King County
Department of Transportation
Road Services Division

Community Relations and Communications
KSC-TR-0824
201 S. Jackson St.
Seattle, WA 98104

Roundabout planned for SE 304th Street and 124th Avenue SE intersection

Where can I find more information?

Interested residents are encouraged to attend a drop-in open house anytime between 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14 at Rainier Middle School, 30620 116th Ave. SE in Auburn. Project engineers will be on hand to hear feedback and answer questions.

Contact us

For more information, please contact Marnie McGrath, King County DOT community relations planner, at 206-684-1154 or marnie.mcgrath@metrokc.gov. Additional information about the project is available at: www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/roads/cip (follow the link under "All projects" and scroll to "SE 304th Street")

Alternate Formats Available

206-684-1154 TTY Relay: 711

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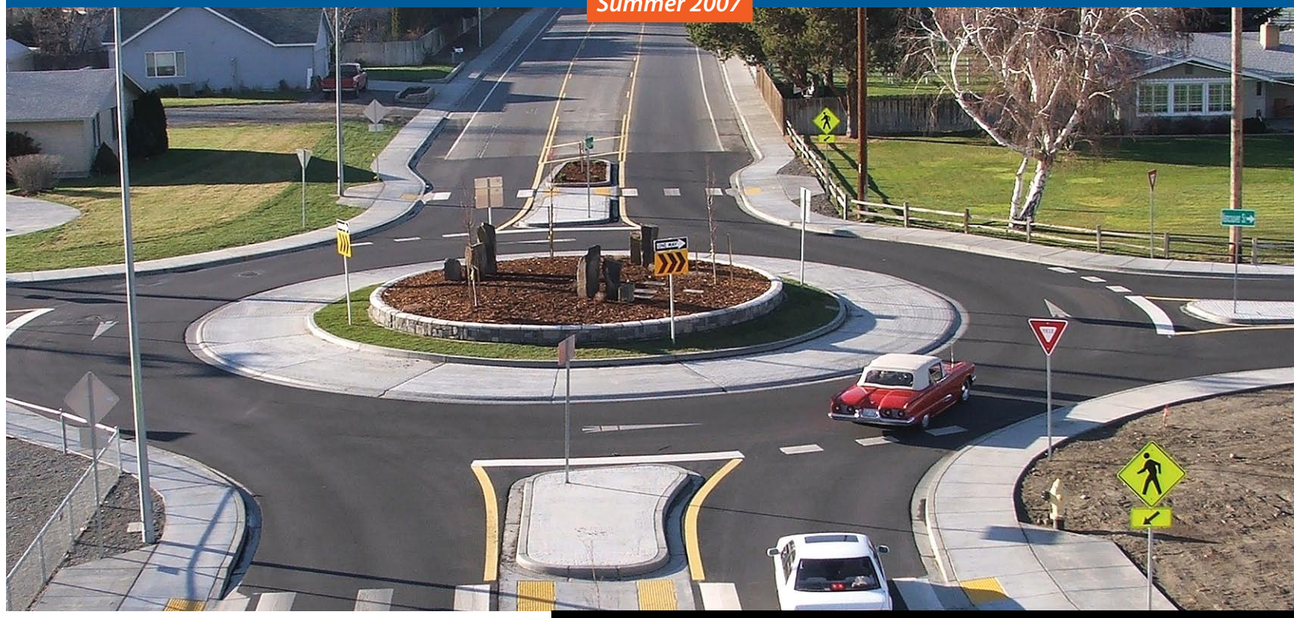
Roundabout planned for SE 304th Street and 124th Avenue SE Intersection

Summer 2007



This roundabout in Kennewick, Wash., is very similar in appearance to the one planned for SE 304th Street and 124th Avenue SE.

To address safety and traffic concerns, the King County Road Services Division is replacing the existing signalized intersection at SE 304th Street and 124th Avenue SE with a modern roundabout.

Roundabouts move traffic steadily through an intersection without a traffic signal by channeling vehicles counter-clockwise around a center island, rather than requiring a full stop. The round center island is made large enough to accommodate buses and emergency vehicles as they travel around. Pavement markings and signs are used to direct traffic into a one-way, counter clockwise flow, and islands and painted crosswalks provide safety for pedestrians.

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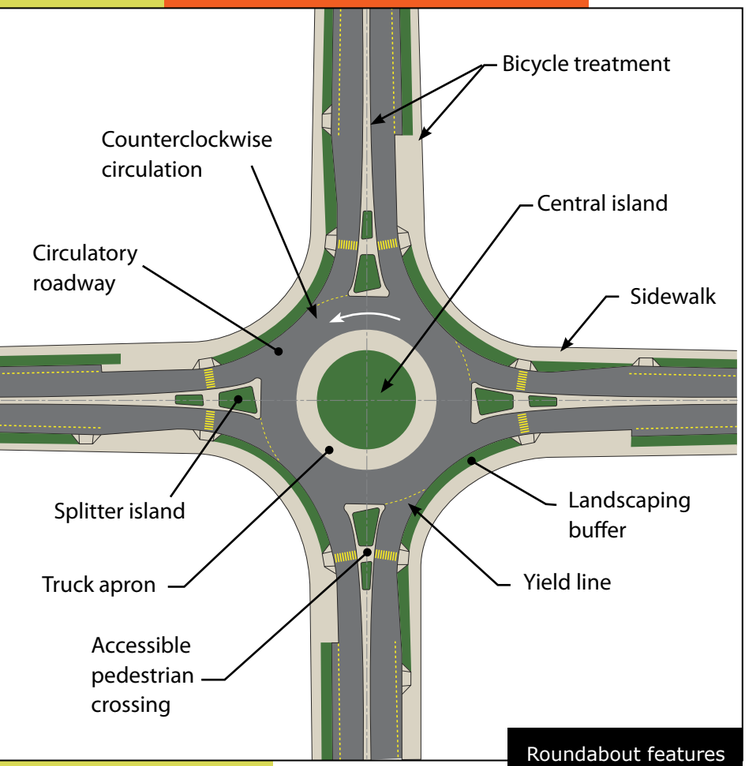
What is a roundabout?

A roundabout is a type of circular intersection that provides safe and efficient vehicle movement by directing motorists into a curved entry, around a center island, and through a curved exit. Compared to most other forms of intersection control, roundabouts reduce speeds, minimize conflict, increase safety, maintain free flow of vehicles, assist pedestrians, reduce travel delays, and provide more opportunities for landscaping, pollution reduction, and cost saving. Roundabouts cut down on collision frequency and severity by reducing high-speed travel through intersections. By minimizing the need for stopping and waiting, roundabouts also improve travel time and help the intersection operate more efficiently.

Why a roundabout?

ROUNDABOUT COMPONENTS



Roundabout features include sidewalks for pedestrians and bicycle access.

The construction of Auburn Mountain View High School and multiple local housing developments has greatly increased the number of vehicles moving through this intersection. A high percentage of that traffic makes left turns. As a result, this intersection no longer functions efficiently, particularly during the morning and afternoon commute.

A review of traffic data indicated that an intersection improvement is needed to improve traffic efficiency and safety. Two options were considered: adding left-turn lanes on all four approaches, plus a right-turn lane for traffic turning from westbound SE 304th onto northbound 124th Avenue SE; or building a single-lane roundabout. After weighing the costs, the need to acquire additional right-of-way, and environmental mitigation required for both options, King County selected the roundabout as the best alternative for this intersection.

Project timeline

Construction of the roundabout is scheduled to begin this fall and is expected to last for about 60 days. The schedule depends on weather and a number of other factors, and may change. Please check the Road Services Division Web site at www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/roads/cip for the latest information on the schedule and traffic control. When completed, this project will include curbs, gutters, sidewalks and new traffic signs to help guide motorists. The cost of construction will be approximately $1.5 million.

Benefits of roundabouts

Roundabouts improve the safety, capacity and environment of intersections. They are safer than other intersections because head-on, angle and left-turning crashes cannot occur. Studies show that when compared to a signal, roundabouts provide up to a 90 percent reduction in fatal crashes, a 75 percent reduction in injury crashes, and a 30-40 percent reduction in pedestrian crashes.

Unlike a traditional intersection with a signal, a roundabout allows traffic to continue flowing and not back up. Drivers will save time and reduce fuel consumption due to fewer stops and less travel delay. King County will save money because roundabouts cost less to operate and maintain than signals. Our community will save because collisions will be less frequent and much less severe, reducing insurance costs, medical costs, and the human cost of injury and death. Roundabouts also reduce the need for roadway expansion to accommodate the lines of stopped vehicles generated by traffic signals.

Roundabouts can carry 30-50 percent more vehicles than similarly sized signalized intersections during rush hour because traffic is always on the move. During light traffic conditions roundabouts cause little to no delay, whereas traffic signals can generate delay on side streets and for left-turning traffic at any time. Roundabouts have increased capacity due to their continuous flowing nature.

In use for years in Europe and Australia, roundabouts are becoming more common in the Puget Sound region and the Northwest. Since they are fairly new to our area, there is a short adjustment period as drivers get used to driving them.

King County Road Services staff are working with the Auburn School District, King County Metro Transit and local public-safety agencies to ensure that buses and emergency-response vehicles will be able to use this intersection during construction.

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The SE 304th Street and 124th Avenue SE intersection as it is today.